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EX892 P22

## WHAT 4-H CLUB WORK DOES TO ITS MEMBERS

A radio talk by Eugene Merritt, Extension Service, broadcast Saturday, October 1, 1938, in the 4-H Club program, National Farm and Home Hour, by 97 stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company.

KADDERLY:

There is a man here who is extremely interested in 4-H club boys and girls, and what they are doing, an interest that has grown through the 24 years that he has been connected with Agricultural Extension work. This man is Eugene Merritt, of the Extension Service in the U.S. D.A. here in Washington. He is going to tell you about some of the things impressed upon him in these last 24 years --- things that 4-H club work does to its members.

Mr. Merritt, I know you want to talk to these 4-H club members --- but before you begin -- please tell the others in this audience just what 4-H club work is. Some of them know --- some may not.

MERRITT:

No doubt that's true, Mr. Kadderly.

The 4-H Club movement is carried out on the farms and in the farm homes by boys or girls under the guidance of a neighbor who is a successful farmer or homemaker. These young people not only increase their skill in performing farming and homemaking tasks but from my contacts with them I find that they gain something else equally valuable.

KADDERLY:

Very well put, Mr. Merritt, a good description of 4-H Club work in exactly 62 words. Now, 4-H Club members, present and past, Mr. Merritt is going to speak directly to you.

MERRITT:

You, who have completed your 4-H club project and who feel that you are no longer concerned with such activities, may realize that after all the project itself was not the most important thing, but that you acquired certain habits and traits that were much more worthwhile. My concern is not with the project work but what happens to the 4-H club member. The project, in my opinion, is only a means to an end.

Let's consider the project responsibility of the individual.

Every project has a requirement which must be fulfilled in order that the individual may be reported as having completed the 4-H club work. Most great men have a vision of what they want to do and how they plan to proceed. The thought of following a plan and arriving at the goal, as set forth in the 4-H project, has this same idea behind it.

And then there is the matter of group responsibility.

If the full opportunity provided in the 4-H club program is taken advantage of, the completion of the club project is only one part of the club activity. There are other parts, --- such as acting as a committeeman, as a chairman of a committee, or, as an officer of a club. All of these duties require that the individual have a plan. But he doesn't stop with planning.

He puts the plan into effect. In other words, the individual has an ideal in mind --- and works toward that ideal. In his project work the 4-H club member learns to care for a calf -- if that is his project --- but as a committee member or an officer in his club he is developing the ability to influence people.

Now let's see how the club member measures his own skills.

I have already said that the individual must set for himself certain tasks, things he is learning to do by doing. The plan for any 4-H project calls for certain practices in which the individual has to acquire skill. Along with these practices the member must keep a record by which he can compare his results with others and see how well his results check up with what other members of the club secured. He may be a part of a judging or a demonstration team. Here again he has an opportunity to compare with other club members his skill in selecting a superior animal or seed stock. On the other hand such a club assignment means that the individual is required to take a certain responsibility for the group upon himself and other members of the group know how well he has fulfilled the responsibility given him.

And that brings us to a thing that I like to call Self Mastery.

To learn to do by doing, with a goal or record, means that the individual knows whether he is the master of his hands, his mind and his will. In talking with young men and young women who have done a good job in club work, I find increasing evidence that learning to do by doing, learning to think by thinking, and learning to lead by leading, have given them certain abilities --- abilities that we find in people who have succeeded or who have become leaders.

KADDERLY:

4-H boys and girls --- these things said by Eugene Merritt came from his heart -- and his many years experience in Extension work. Thank you Mr. Merritt-- Whether they realize it now or not -- many 4-H club members are undergoing experiences that are doing for them the things you mentioned.